



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



Committee Report No. **390**

Submitted by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education on **June 1, 2026**

Re : House Bill No. **9532**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4930

Sponsors : Representatives Jude A. Acidre and Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Higher and Technical Education, to which was referred House Bill No. 4930, introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre, entitled:

“AN ACT

**PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS AND
LEARNING MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES
AND COLLEGES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL
ACADEMIC CONTENT REPOSITORY AND FREE WI-FI IN SUC
CAMPUSES”;**

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. **9532**, entitled:

“AN ACT

**PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DIGITAL ACADEMIC
TEXTBOOKS, LEARNING MATERIALS, AND WIRELESS FIDELITY
FOR STUDENTS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL
ACADEMIC CONTENT REPOSITORY”**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 4930 and with Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Jude A. Acidre, Antonio L. Tinio, Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando, Patricia C. Calderon, Dimszar M. Sali, Antolin A. Oreta III, Jaime R. Fresnedi, De Carlo L. Uy, Johanne Monich G. Bautista, Jose Manuel Tadeo “Chel” I. Diokno, Mario “Kokoy” O. Salvador, Walfredo “Arman” R. Dimaguila, Jr., Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Atty. Jennifer “Karen” A. Lagbas, Wilton “Tonton” T. Kho, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap, Anna York P. Bondoc, M.D., Felimon M. Espares,¹ Florabel C. Yatco, King Collantes, Joseph “Jojo” L. Lara, Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Rebecca Maria Alcantara Ynares, Edwin L. Cruzado, M.D., Roman T. Romulo, Edsel A. Galeos, and Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Jude A. Acidre.

JUDE A. ACIDRE
Chairperson

Committee on Higher and Technical Education

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
House of Representatives
Quezon City



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9532
(In substitution of House Bill No. 4930)

Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Jude A. Acidre, Antonio L. Tinio, Elijah Rumbaoa San Fernando, Patricia C. Calderon, Dimszar M. Sali, Antolin A. Oreta III, Jaime R. Fresnedi, De Carlo L. Uy, Johanne Monich G. Bautista, Jose Manuel Tadeo “Chel” I. Diokno, Mario “Kokoy” O. Salvador, Walfredo “Arman” R. Dimaguila, Jr., Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Atty. Jennifer “Karen” A. Lagbas, Wilton “Tonton” T. Kho, Ma. Cristina Talavera Lopez, Christopherson “Coco” M. Yap, Anna York P. Bondoc, M.D., Felimon M. Espares, Florabel C. Yatco, King Collantes, Joseph “Jojo” L. Lara, Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Rebecca Maria Alcantara Ynares, Edwin L. Cruzado, M.D., Roman T. Romulo, Edsel A. Galeos, and Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar

AN ACT
PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DIGITAL ACADEMIC TEXTBOOKS,
LEARNING MATERIALS, AND WIRELESS FIDELITY FOR STUDENTS IN
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS THROUGH
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL ACADEMIC CONTENT
REPOSITORY

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Universal Access to Digital Academic Learning Resources Act”.

SEC. 2. Objectives. – As used in this Act:

- a. Provide free and equitable access to digital academic learning resources for students enrolled in both public and private higher education institutions (HEIs);
- b. Establish a National Academic Content Repository that hosts government-funded and openly licensed educational content;
- c. Ensure free high-speed wireless fidelity (wi-fi) in all HEIs to facilitate digital learning and research; and

- d. Support the development, digitization, and sharing of locally produced academic content.

SEC. 3. National Academic Content Repository. – There shall be created a National Academic Content Repository, hereinafter referred to as the NACR, to be placed under the supervision and management of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), state universities and colleges (SUCs), local universities and colleges (LUCs), and private higher education institutions (PHEIs). The NACR shall:

- a. Store and disseminate digital textbooks, lecture videos, syllabi, research papers, and open educational resources (OERs) across disciplines;
- b. Provide free online access to all students and faculty of HEIs nationwide;
- c. Ensure that the content is quality-assured, accessible, inclusive, and culturally relevant; and
- d. Encourage faculty-generated content, with appropriate academic recognition and attribution.

SEC. 4. Digital Content Development and Acquisition. – To populate the NACR, the CHED shall:

- a. Acquire licenses for digital textbooks and resources used in higher education programs;
- b. Promote the creation of localized and open educational resources through grants to HEIs and the faculty members;
- c. Work with national and international publishers to secure affordable or open access arrangements; and
- d. Establish content review panels to ensure academic quality and accuracy.

SEC. 5. Free Wi-Fi Access in HEIs. – The DICT, in partnership with HEIs, shall implement campus-wide high-speed wi-fi access with the following features:

- a. Free of charge to all faculty and enrolled students;
- b. Secure and monitored to protect user privacy and prevent misuse; and
- c. Designed to support access to the NACR and other academic services.

Priority shall be given to rural and under-resourced campuses during the initial implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. Responsibilities of HEIs. – Each HEI shall:

- a. Designate an Open Learning Resources Unit or officer to coordinate with the CHED and the DICT;
- b. Encourage faculty to contribute, adapt, and use digital content from the

- 50 NACR;
- 51 c. Support students in digital literacy and responsible use of online academic
- 52 resources; and
- 53
- 54 d. Integrate NACR content into library services and course delivery.

55

56 **SEC. 7. Capacity Building and Incentives.** – The CHED shall offer:

- 57
- 58 a. Training and workshops for faculty on creating digital materials and OERs;
- 59 b. Recognition and incentives for academic content creators whose work is
- 60 used nationally; and
- 61 c. Technical assistance to SUCs, LUCs, and PHEIs for wi-fi installation,
- 62 server setup, and NACR access.
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64 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from

65 the effectivity of this Act, the CHED and the DICT shall, in coordination with the HEIs and

66 other stakeholders, issue rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

67 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall be held

68 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in

69 full force and effect.

70 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,

71 rules and regulations, and issuances or any part thereof, which are contrary or

72 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or modified

73 accordingly.

74 **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its

75 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 9532
(In substitution of House Bill No. 4930)

AN ACT PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DIGITAL ACADEMIC TEXTBOOKS, LEARNING MATERIALS, AND WIRELESS FIDELITY FOR STUDENTS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL ACADEMIC CONTENT REPOSITORY

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVES FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ, YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ, ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ, JUDE A. ACIDRE, ANTONIO L. TINIO, ELIJAH RUMBAOA SAN FERNANDO, PATRICIA C. CALDERON, DIMSZAR M. SALI, ANTOLIN A. ORETA III, JAIME R. FRESNEDI, DE CARLO L. UY, JOHANNE MONICH G. BAUTISTA, JOSE MANUEL TADEO “CHEL” I. DIOKNO, MARIO “KOKOY” O. SALVADOR, WALFREDO “ARMAN” R. DIMAGUILA, JR., KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN, ATTY. JENNIFER “KAREN” A. LAGBAS, WILTON “TONTON” T. KHO, MA. CRISTINA TALAVERA LOPEZ, CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP, ANNA YORK P. BONDOC, M.D., FELIMON M. ESPARES, FLORABEL C. YATCO, KING COLLANTES, JOSEPH “JOJO” L. LARA, KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI, CARL NICOLAS C. CARI, REBECCA MARIA ALCANTARA YNARES, EDWIN L. CRUZADO, M.D., ROMAN T. ROMULO, EDSSEL A. GALEOS, AND MA. VICTORIA COPILAR**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**
Committee Chairperson: **REP. JUDE A. ACIDRE**

OBJECTIVES:

- To facilitate digital learning and research in public and private higher education institutions (HEIs)
- To support the development, digitization, and sharing of locally produced academic research materials to be used by students of both public and private HEIs

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Creates the government-funded and openly licensed educational National Academic Content Repository (NACR) and placed under the supervision and management of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), HEIs, and

stakeholders

- Promotes the development and acquisition of licenses for localized and open educational content through grants to HEIs and their faculty members, and works with national and international publishers to secure affordable or open access arrangements
- Provides free access to academic resources and wireless fidelity (wi-fi) for students enrolled in both public and private higher education institutions (HEIs)
- Ensures the provision of a secured and monitored free campus-wide high-speed wi-fi access to all faculty members and enrolled students in all HEIs
- Specifies the responsibilities of CHED, DICT, and HEIs
- Offers capacity building programs and incentives through: 1) training and workshops to faculty on creating digital materials and Open Education Resources; 2) recognition of academic content creators whose works are used nationally; and 3) provision of technical assistance to HEIs for wi-fi installation, server set-up, and NACR access

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 7722 – Higher Education Act of 1994
- Republic Act No. 8047 - Book Publishing Industry Development Act
- Republic Act No. 8293 – Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines
- Republic Act No. 10173 – Data Privacy Act of 2012
- Republic Act No. 10650 - Open Distance Learning Act
- Republic Act No. 10844 – Department of Information and Communications Technology Act of 2015